

Do not put your name on this! It's anonymous!

Variations on a Theme: All Children Can Learn!

DIRECTIONS:

Read the four school variations below. Then, write each of the letters (A, B, C, D and E) in the box that you feel matches ...

- A. The school you attended
- B. The school you currently work in
- C. The school you want to work in
- D. The school you want your kids to attend
- E. The school your students would say they attend

NOTE:
Boxes can have
more than 1
letter!

SCHOOL VARIATIONS

YOUR RESPONSES

SCHOOL 1. We believe that all students can learn...but the extent of their learning is determined by their innate ability or aptitude. This aptitude is relatively fixed and, as teachers, we have little influence over the extent of student learning. It is our job to create multiple programs or tracks that address the different abilities of students and then guide students to the appropriate program. This ensures that students have access to the proper curriculum and an optimum opportunity to master material appropriate to their ability.

SCHOOL 2. We believe that all students can learn... if they elect to put forth the necessary effort. It is our job to provide all students with this opportunity to learn, and we fulfill our responsibility when we attempt to present lessons that are both clear and engaging. In the final analysis, however, while it is our job to teach, it is the student's job to learn. We should invite students to learn but honor their decision if they elect not to do so.

SCHOOL 3. We believe that all students can learn... something. It is our responsibility to help each student demonstrate some growth in a learning environment that is warm and inviting. The extent of the growth will be determined by a combination of the student's innate ability and effort. It is our job to encourage all students to learn as much as possible, but the extent of their learning is dependent on factors over which we have little control.

SCHOOL 4. We believe that all students can and must learn at relatively high levels of achievement. It is our job to create an environment in our classrooms that results in this high level of performance. We are confident that, with our support and help, students can master challenging academic material, and we expect them to do so. We are prepared to work collaboratively with colleagues, students, and parents to achieve this shared educational purpose.

Activity adapted from Solution Tree. (2007). The Power of Professional Learning Communities at Work™